Middle School Good Times

Vol. 23 # 4 Paw Paw Middle School * Paw Paw, MI 49079 $.50

NEW EXHIBIT COMING TO BINDER PARK ZOO

by a. butterfly

The recently-discovered breed of wolf called the Mutteram is coming to Binder Park Zoo this summer.

This new breed is larger by about two feet in length and one foot in height. It is only found in northern parts of Canada and some of Alaska. The Mutteram that the zoo has acquired is a pregnant female with a missing ear and is presently being held in a nature preserve until the exhibit is constructed,

FLOOD WATCH

A flood watch is in effect for all of West Michigan. The Paw Paw area has been the hardest hit with virtually the whole town underwater.

There have been numerous deaths, including the mayor who went down with city hall. Nearly five buildings have collapsed including the State Police Office and the Shopping Center.

But perhaps the most important building lost was the Paw Paw Middle School.

Built way back in 1924, the Middle School was the oldest building in Michigan. It caved in as soon as there was an inch of water on the floor. This disaster could have been avoided had students cooperated.

But when asked to help build a wall of sandbags around the building, they simply said they had other things to do.

Some of them left then, but most stayed to watch from their boats.

We interviewed some of the students later. Ray Thomas said the old school was not worth the effort. Many of the students has the same response.

WEATHER UPDATES..by n. williams

IS there no chance for a let up? Well the answer is no. There is a 99% chance of rain tonight... up to seven feet. The rest of the country is dry and sunny. The new president, Al Gore, has declared Michigan a federal disaster area. National Troops are on their way. (in row boats no doubt.)

SO WHAT WAS ALL OF THE ABOVE? APRIL FOOL! A LOT LATE!

IF you are still wondering what the heck was that funny "newspaper" you got March 27, well, it was our lame attempt to get apaper out close to our favorite holiday... APRIL FOOL'S DAY.

Actually, it's only been the last two years that we have been able to get out a March/April issue. Previously we either skipped it alltogether or once in a rare while we did a St. Pat's paper.

This one is a combination of St. Pat's, April Fools and Easter..and happy Passover too... Our last issue will be out on May 23. Any ideas? Send them to Mrs. Swanson, care of her mailbox in the office. Thanks. GT staff.

SCIENTISTS DO WELL AGAIN!

The Middle School Science Olympiad team placed third technically in the regional science olympiad. Technically... because there was a tie for second and that had to be resolved...by counting how many firsts, seconds, etc. each had in what areas... etc... But we're still proud of our team no matter what the technicalities!

Representing Paw Paw M.S. on March 14 were Jon Ayres, Landry Boysen, Amanda Butler, Matt Campbell, Kerri Champion, Mike Haught, Nathan Krefman, Melanie Lanter, Bret Moss, Matt Rife, Joy Shinabarger, Matt Smith, Brianne Travis, Chris Van Sickle and Catherine Walker.

Alternates and helpers were Glenn Glidden, DAn Meach, Ryan Shannon, Andrew Sitar, Ben Smith, Jackie Winnell, and Tony Frego.

BAND... AVERAGE or BETTER DAY at FESTIVAL

by m. lanter

The Paw Paw Middle School 7th and 8th grade band went to Lake Michigan College to compete against other school bands all around Michigan.

Our school came home with a 2 rating... The scoring ranges from 1-5, with 5 the worst. The categories are sight reading and concert.

This year was fun, but we hope to bring back a 1 next year. You could say our school is average or better.

ACTIVITY NIGHT..BEST EVER

by j. booth and h. streich

March 23's activity night was lots of fun and the volley ball tournament was fun to watch. Surprisingly the teachers were pretty good in the tournament, coming in second place.

The other activities were fun and interesting too. These included fortune telling, candy wall, dancing, basketball. pingpong and kareoke, just to name a few.

THE APPROACH

It's quickly coming up on us and
trying to make us fall
The hardships of life
but we must stand tall.
It won't be all work and
it won't be all fun
But we'll get through it together
as the class of 2001.

by j. shinabarger

FIRST PLACE to J. MOTTER

Jason Motter took lst palce in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition in Lansing MArch 8. He shot 21 out of 25. This makes him state champion!

R.I.F. CARNIVAL

by k. hughes

The RIF carnival was a blast for the people who lived in Paw Paw. There were games for all ages and wild and wacky prizes...everything from basketball to fishing.

The RIF carnival was so fun because you got to see your friends and talk to them since you can't do that much at school. The RIF carnival happens every year and every year it is a great success,

If you went you will know how fun it was and if you didn't go, you're out of luck til next year.

OH DEER!

by Eric M. and Nick C.

We recently received a letter from Borculo Christian School. It suggested that the state mammal should be the white-tailed deer. These 4th graders may have had liposuction on the brain! Or a lobotomy.. But more politely speaking, they want the deer rather than the wolverine.

Why would we want to be represented by a leg-kicking Bambi? Furthermore, this would the wolverine free to be hunted. (being the state mammal makes it off - limits. to hunting.) Then too that would protect the white-tailed deer and keep it from being hunted. We have given our opinion. Now we want yours. Just send your letters to Mrs. Swanson's mailbox.

THE NCAA FINAL FOUR

by m. zinkil

The NCAA Final Four was some good games. For the Midwest/West side of the bracket it was #! seed Minnesota vs. the #1 seed Kentucky. The Minnesota Goldern Gophers had a 27-3 regular season and a Big Ten championship. The Kentucky Wildcats regular seaon record was 29-4. Kentucky's dominating full court press and their great offense will be a huge factor in the games. My pick is the Kentucky Wildcats by a t least 5 points. (good prediction..written 2-24.)

In the East/Southeast part of the bracket the #1 seed North Carolina TarHeels played the #4 Arizona Wildcats. The TarHerels entered the tournament at 24-6. Arizona entered with 19-9 record, This game will go to North Carolina by 10 points... (an upset...)

(the article above was written prior to the spring vacation and the results... And you now undoubtedly know, the rest of the story.) Hope you caught the games.

WHAT WAS OUR SCHOOL'S FAVORITE EASTER CANDY?

WE know you have been dying to know..... so here is the research.

Number one favorite was the Cadbury Eggs... Second place went to jelly beans with the chocolate bunny coming in third.

Other favorites were Easter gum, marshmallow peeps, and chocolate covered anything!

NEVER TOO LATE FOR LUNCH by a. lee and amanda h.

For this edition we interviewed a lunch lady named Claudia who originated from Chicago.

She has lived in Paw Paw for two years. One reason she moved here was to get away from the violence in the Chicago area.

She said she didn't want her high school-aged child to be exposed to the heavy high school Pressure of drugs and violence. Says she," I wanted to give him a chance to learn without having to watch his back.."

One thing to tell the middle schoolers is to be yourself. Be a leader , not a follower. Don't let the peer pressure get to you. Just say NO.

CHEER and DANCE TEAMS by n. o'keefe and l. boyce

8th grade girls recently were able to try out for the cheer and dance teams. For the girls who went to the clinics, they all said it was fun and interesting. We didn't have enough people trying out for cheerleading so we had only the dance try outs and clinics.

We will have cheer try outs in May and clinics then too. So 8th grade girls come and try out.

Two middle schoolers did make it into the dance team: Sarah Lounsbury and Nikki O'Keefe.

TOP 10 FASHION...by Alicia McConnell and Jennifer Sargent

1. Wide-legged jeans.. comfy and stylish
2. Corderoys= some guys think they should make boxers in corderoy too
3. adidas- and nike apparel- is in and always will be
4.70's, 70's 70's are back!
5. funny nail polish- pastels are hip
6. mossimo - say goodbye to "No Fear"
7. Khakis- casual and goes with anything
8. ski sweats
9. henley shirts
10. short hair

THE INTERNET by j. smith

Well, for all you hackers out there, you know about the big network of networks, the Internet. The information superhighway is turning into the information megahighway. More and more people are learning Hyper Text Markup Language. (HTML) to make their own web sites. And if you can't find any good websites, got to http:// www.sprynet. com. to find what you're looking for.

WHAT'S HOT: EMPIRE STRIKES BACK and RETURN OF THE JEDI

Star Wars was hot, Empire Strikes Back is even better, Just thought of seeing it is cool. When I went to see it in Benton Harbor, I was walloped with amazement. The Empire Strikes Back had more computer=animated graphics than all three. Return of the Jedi was good but I think it needed more graphics. Having seen all three , I would rank them 1) Empire Strikes 2.) Return of the J. 3. Star Wars by j. smith

LEPRECHAUNS: the True Story
by n. culp and r. thyfault

IF you find a leprechaun, you might ask him for his gold. If you do, you're in trouble. Leprechauns are believed to be short sweet tickets to riches. The truth however is they are mad little demons trying to take over the Earth. They spawn on bathroom seats and have a tendency to share spoons among one another. They are believed to be from Ireland but the truth is that they are linked to a midget hermit once strolling across A-bomb testing property. Unfortunately, bombs were being test that dat and well, we bet you can guess the rest. It was gruesome.

The little demons are mad that people look for them so they do horrible things to us. They leave the toilet seat up so women get mad at men, they thrive on getting people into arguments.

The life cycle of a leprechaun is odd. They begin as we said in the lavoratory and spend their early weeks in the nasal area where their parents keep them through out their infancy.

In fact the leading cause of death among leprechauns is suffocation from nose hairs. After fully grown, they move back to the lavoratory. For days they hideout. They feed on refried beans at the Wendy's superbar, for they know no one will go there.

Now that you know about leprechauns, think twice before you hunt for them.

THE FROG and THE FLY
by m. smith

It silently pursues the tiny insect.

Waiting for just the right moment.

The insect buzzes around

Innocently looking for a place to land

The frog spots him there and waits

In a flash the unsuspecting fly is gone.

INTERVIEW WITH THE EASTER BUNNY by michelle and emily
(Peter Cotton tail and the chicken workers actually)

M. and E.: How do you feel about Peter Cottontail getting most of the credit for Easter candy?

Chickens: We absolutely hate it. We might even go on strike...

E and M: Why don't you talk it over with Peter?

Chickens: We have tried many times but Peter says we chickens aren't good enough.

M and E: Well Peter what do you have to say about that?

Peter: I didn't hear nuttin' 'bout that.

E and M: Are you sure?

Peter: Maybe something 'bout it but they complained so much I had to lock them out of my house. They was wakin' the babies.

M and E: So what are you going to do about Easter, Peter? The kids are counting on it to come.

Chickens: To solve the problem, you could thank us for our hard work at Easter. If it wasn't for us egg layers,

there would be no Easter.
Peter: I never had the chance. I'm a hard-working rabbit, ya know. I don't got time for playing silly games.
Chickens: Well you never give us enough treats.
Peter: Yes I do.
Chickens: No you don't . You big furry jerk!
Peter: Jerk? You got the nerve calling me a je..
E and M: I think we will have to take this to court.
Chickens: We can't afford a lawyer.
Peter: We'll do it my way. Wrestling!
Who will win, Peter or the Chickens?
Send your vote to Mrs. Swanson by May 3rd so it can be printed in the next issue.

TEN WAYS TO IMPRESS YOUR PRINCIPAL by c. holzworth

1. Present him/ her flowers, cards, pies...
2. Mention they look exceptionally nice today
3. Send him/her a card on their birthday
4. Conversate with him/her.
5. Obey all school rules successfully.
6. Take action in all school committees.
7. Attempt to obtain a place on the honor roll.
8. Strive not to get detentions.
9. Be punctual to class.
10. Accomplish all of your work.

SKYDIVING

I have gone skydiving only once and that was because my 28-year- old sister is a jumpmaster. I had to jump at the same time as my sister. But this time I was lucky.

We drove down to Benton Harbor to the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. I got out of the car and noticed the Hercules out on the runway with the "Fly Away" emblem on it.
I walked into the airport and filled out some release forms. Then I watched as professionals packed my electric blue with neon green-lightening- striped parachute. I put on a windbreaker and boarded the Hercules.

I waited as we leveled out at 12,480 feet. When we did. I was the first one out. It was 40 seconds of pure nirvana. I then pulled my ripchord and watched as my awesome -looking canopy rose above my head. The next two miutes were a little less than fun. Sure I was gliding and controlling where I went but it was so slow.

I landed and got a medal from "Fly Away." It was more than a challenge- it was an overkill of fun.
by j. smith

Which teacher is this - little girl?

See p. 9

ORCHESTRA

Now that the sun
Is drowsy and weak
And settles in
The sky becomes pretty and pink.

Then a shade of purple
And black grows the hills
Black as the sky and ground
And the mills.

Up to his stand comes the
Conductor of night as the
LAst of the birds have gone
Home in the light.

The orchestra peeps out
Behind trees and bushes
Under rocks, beneath logs
It creeps from the brushes.

The strings start to hum
The wind starts to whistle
It shakes up the leaves in the
Thistle.

A few crunchy leaves
Are in time to the whistle
In come the flutes high
And sweet
A few lonely crickets add
to the beat.

As the conductor grows lazy
And weak he falls to the
Ground sleepy and meek.
When the sun is seen partially
ahead,
the orchestra, sleepy,
Crawls back to bed.

THE SADDEST DAY

anonymous

The saddest day of my life is almost every day when I walk into the classrooms. I hear the sounds of hatred and discouraging words. Every day when I walk into the classrooms, I get very sad because I get made fun of and I am considered a joke. The things I hear sometimes make me think about me and why I am like this. Every night I pray to God and ask him, "Why did you put me on EArth when all that happens to me is a joke or I'm laughed at?"

Some people don't know how theyare hurting other people other than themselves by saying the words they think and say. I do not understand the reason why people don't like me or why they choose to pick on and make fun of me. They pick on people who are not popular, and the people who are different and not like them.

The other thing I find disturbing is that the people who make fun of me and others, go home laughing. The people who are picked on go home feeling there's something wrong with them. Those words they hear stay with them forever and the thoughts of the words can cause a person's self-esteem to go down.

I think the problems in the world are caused by words or phrases that are made to hurt a person's self-esteem. I also feel that

the majority of people are being judged by the way they look instead of being judged by the way they are inside. I think that people who pick on others do that because they have learned to do that at home. They want to hurt someone else .(as they have been hurt at home) I conclude that, no matter where some people go, others will always make fun of them.

GOOD TIMES STAFF this issue:

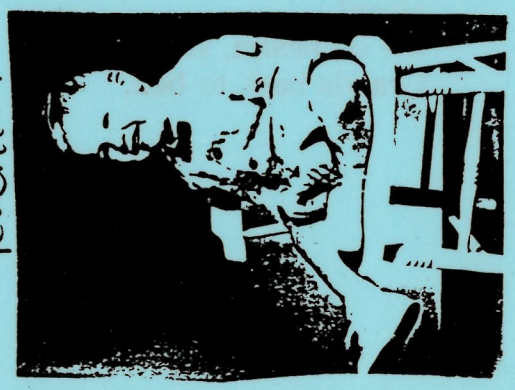
Lindsey Boulter, Justin Pillow, Marcus Boucher, Christine Byrd, Nate McKenzie, Jenny Booth, Jennifer Sargent, Matt Toliusis, Katie Hughes, Bethany Howell, Cherie Marshall, Noell Russell, Holly Streich, Melanie Lanter, Dan Anderer, Zeus, Kellie Nugeteren, Ted Crook, Shannon Quade, Erin Oakleaf, Nick Goodman, Erin Merker, Alicia McConnell, Laura Boyce, Nikki O'Keefe, Jessica Ross, Kelly Baskin, El Swave, Paulette Reidt, Phil Sang, Nathan Carr, Nathan Offord, Justin Munn, Tom Henley, Casey McKEnzie, Missy Bingham, Jason Glidden, Lori Ferrarir, Renee Vesey, Samantha Stubbs, Ashley Babin, Katie Eldred, Heather Galbraith, Heather Anderson, Jonathan Smith, Casey Martin, MaryBeth Fuhrmann, Jennifer Wallace, Ashley Lee, Jessica Krefman, Amanda Hudson, Melissa Knoll, Ashley Alexander, Emily Peacock, Merry Roberts, Ramsey Beyer, Josh Frazier, Erik Modrzynski, Matt Zinkil, Christine Cashen, Nick Culp, Katie Tapper, Carolyn Goodman, Shauna Mount, Angela Trowbridge, Kelly Hover, Frances Clare, Michelle Zerbi, Tony Gullotti, Teresa Giacalone, Elenor Gonzalez, and Dave Peat.

97

PEOPLE are DYING EVERYWHERE

Oops, another car crash.
Oh well, that guy shouldn't have been on the road anyway,
She was old, too bad.
It's not like that.
If you knew how it felt to have been friends, loved, cared by that person
It hurts every time .
You walk up to the casket , You think, I can prove she's sleeping.
I'll go get the water , but in the back of your mind, you say how can someone that I knew be gone, dead, and you keep that one word
In your mind... dead. She's dead.
You cannot imagine going to places you used to go a long time ago.
The thing that bothers me is this:
Look around you, see friends right?
Notice - people are fragile and they can slip away
Like that.

HAVE ANY OPINIONS YOU'D LIKE TO AIR? WRITE TO US c/ o Mrs. Swanson's mailbox in the office. Do be sure to put your name on what you write. We can leave it off in printing but we do need to verify that you really said it. (The Gazette does this too with letters to the paper.)



SIXTH GRADERS VOICE THEIR VIEWS : WHY THEY CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THEM?

Meghan Adams says" in track, seventh and eighth graders can run faster than sixth." Tony Smith says," Sixth graders are maybe not responsible enough to come to practice every day. If we did show up every day, we couldn't do well in school." Beth Simpson says," This is our first year in middle school and we're not totally used to it."

Emily Peacock thinks " because 8th and 7th graders don't want littler kids hanging around." Tasha BLackman agreed. Shana Heuser thinks," a lot of us aren't mature enough to play sports." Elizabeth Burns felt" maybe they think we're too young." Alan Rhoderick says, " they don't think that we're strong enough and they don't think we can play against bigger kids."

Courtney Kuntz thinks," Maybe the staff or whoever thought we did not get enough practice," Kelly Hover says, "Some sports you have to be a certain age." Shanna Gave wonders," they can't afford it because the 7th and 8th graders need uniforms."

Lots of sixth graders thought as Kim Van Sickle did." People don't think it's worth the money to let us participate." or as Jay Corey says, " the school doesn't have the money."

Andrew Dragicevich came closest to what may be the best reason: "Not a lot of middle schools have sixth grade teams." Brandon Holt agreed and said," It would be hard to get every school to have sixth grade sports...and you would have to figure out everything and which sports to have." And as Ramsey Beyer said, " It was a rule when schools started sports or something so now they don't want to change it."

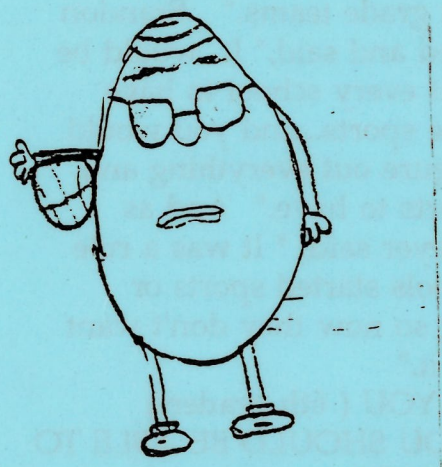
WHY DO YOU (6th graders) THINK YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE?

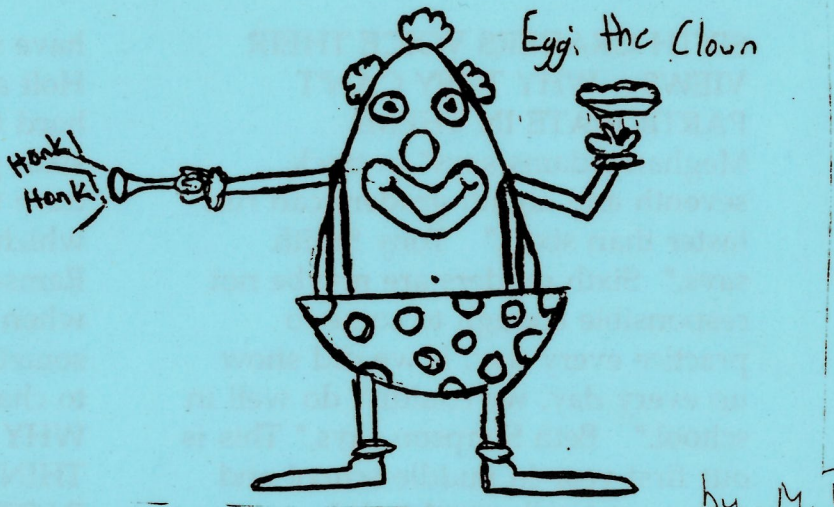
Chrystal Golland says," We are part of this school and we aren't that young. It's not fair to exclude us from what we like to do. If we are going to play sports some day, we need to get practice." Jennifer Beasley said," Sixth graders are responsible enough to participate . We can keep our grades up and we can make it to practice and to the games." Allie Starbuck says,"It would strengthen sixth graders and help them with gym."

Sara Conner says," Sports are for all ages and we think it is fun." Joe Motter says" It would give us exercise and people who want to play should have the chance." Julie Abnet seemed to speak for the majority of sixth graders when she said," We are just as important as the 7th and 8th graders...." Cecilia Newman carried that argument further to include dances.."We should do everything the 7th and 8th graders do because we're no different from them."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

p. 6 baby is Mrs. Mahanty
p. 8 baby is Mr Zelp
p. 10 baby is Mrs. Markovich

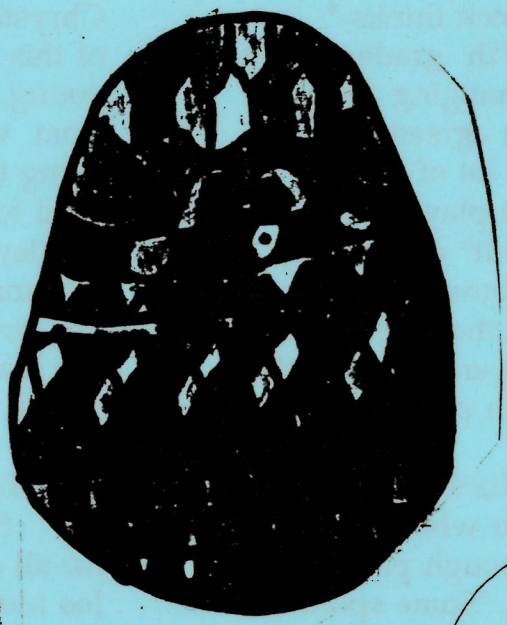




by M. Boucher

Egg is Rodman

by T. Henley



by M. Knoll

Who is this smiling instructor?

Egg Artists - See Mrs. Swanson for prizes!

(See p. 9)